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THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES IN 1989

(Commission resolution 2(XXV))

Report by the Executive Secretary

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1/ For a description of selected interdisciplinary activities, see document E/ECE/1203. Other relevant information is also contained in documents E/ECE/1201 and E/ECE/1218.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report contains a review of highlights of the activities of the Commission since the forty-fourth session. A full account is contained in the reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and in certain documents prepared for the forty-fifth session, including the Notes and Reports on Concentration and Integration of the Programme of Work of the Commission (E/ECE/1203), Programme of Work for 1990-1994 (E/ECE/1222), Economic Co-operation in the Mediterranean in the Light of the Final Act of the CSCE (E/ECE/1218) and the Commission's Contribution to United Nations Programmes designed to assist Developing Countries (E/ECE/1201).

REVIEW OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES 2/

A. TRADE (ECE/TRADE/167)

2. The Committee on the Development of Trade reviewed recent and prospective trends, policies and problems affecting intraregional trade, particularly in the context of economic and political changes taking place in many countries of the ECE region. It examined a study prepared by the secretariat on east-west trade in services, analysing recent developments and prospective trends in this sector. The Committee invited the secretariat to prepare a note on the efforts required by ECE member countries to extend and improve the existing data base on east-west service transactions. Aware of the disparities which characterize east-west trade statistics, and taking into account Commission decision C (44), the Committee invited the Commission to consider convening with the Conference of European Statistics a joint meeting of experts to discuss such disparities and suggest means of improving the international comparability of foreign trade statistics.

3. Compensation trade in the ECE region was examined on the basis of a survey conducted by the secretariat on countertrade as it affects small- and medium-sized enterprises in the ECE region. The Committee decided to convene in 1990 a special meeting of experts, both on governmental and non-governmental levels, to consider the results of the survey as well as the study on the subject submitted to it in 1988.

4. Development of market information, marketing techniques and improved business contacts were considered on the basis of the report of the Seminar on Industrial Equipment Leasing in East-west Trade held in September 1989. The Committee expressed appreciation of this meeting and decided to hold a seminar on market perspectives and business opportunities, in Lisbon (Portugal) in the spring of 1991. It invited the secretariat to prepare a note summarizing the work of the ECE in establishing an industrial co-operation data base including joint ventures and to make suggestions for further activities in this field.

2/ Against each sub-heading in this section the reference given is to the report of the Principal Subsidiary Body concerned.

5. East-west industrial co-operation was the subject of an extensive discussion, which took into consideration the positive outcome of the Meeting of Experts on East-West Joint Ventures held in Genoa (Italy) in March 1989. The Committee invited the secretariat to prepare a study on the conditions for promoting foreign direct investment, including special economic zones, joint ventures and other forms of industrial co-operation in the ECE region. It also agreed on the desirability of convening a seminar on the management of joint ventures and industrial co-operation projects, and asked interested delegations to present a specific proposal in this regard at its 1990 session.

6. The Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry approved the text of the part of the Guide on legal aspects of new forms of industrial co-operation which deals with "international counterpurchase contracts". The Working Party considered a draft of that part of the Guide which deals with international buyback contracts. It decided to take up as the topic of its next guide "Legal aspects of financing the new and developing forms of east-west trade".

7. In the framework of development work related to the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures adopted for trial use a number of messages related to customs operations. The Working Party will continue to develop UN/EDIFACT standard messages, to update its Recommendations whenever necessary, and to promote their practical implementation world-wide.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER PROBLEMS (ECE/ENVWA/14)

8. The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems have completed the Code of Conduct on Accidental Pollution of Transboundary Inland Waters. Work continued on the development of a concept regarding responsibility and liability in case of transboundary water pollution.

9. Progress was made in the elaboration of the regional agreement on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context.

10. The report on monitoring flora, fauna and their habitats was finalized. A conceptual paper was prepared on the results of the feasibility study on developing lists of species of particular conservation concern in Europe. The European Red List of Threatened Animals and Plants has been finalized for consideration by the Senior Advisers.

11. The Senior Advisers pursued their work on environment and economics in co-operation with the Senior Economic Advisers. The report of the joint task force with Norway as lead country was considered and revised by an ad hoc meeting in January 1990. The ad hoc meeting also elaborated draft recommendations to ECE Governments and proposals for future joint work with the Senior Economic Advisers.

12. A Seminar on Economic Implications of Low-waste Technology (LWT) was held in The Hague (Netherlands) in October 1989. It focused in particular on legal, administrative and economic instruments to promote the development and application of LWT, as well as on its benefits for industry and society, and

on problems encountered in the implementation of LWT and possible solutions. Work continued on the evaluation of cost-effectiveness of energy- and resource-saving technologies and on recovery, recycling and re-utilization of industrial wastes. The Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology has recommended the elaboration of a regional strategy on integrated waste management. A first draft would be prepared by a Task Force, with Sweden as lead country.

13. The Senior Advisers, jointly with the Committee on Agricultural Problems, held a Symposium on Improved Irrigation Practices to Preserve and Protect Water Resources and Increase Crop Yields in Avignon (France) in September 1989. Preparations continued for a Seminar on Waste-water Management to be held in Munich (Federal Republic of Germany) in May 1990. Work has started on the preparation of a Seminar on Ecosystems Approach to Water Management to be held in Norway in 1991.

14. Under the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, two new subsidiary Bodies began their work in 1989: the Working Group on Abatement Strategies, with a view to developing internationally agreed target loads; and the Working Group on Volatile Organic Compounds, with a view to developing a draft protocol to control emissions of such compounds. Also established were two new task forces under the Executive Body (on exchange of technology, and on mapping of critical levels and loads), and one under the Working Party on Air Pollution Problems (on emissions of heavy metals).

C. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND PROJECTIONS (ECE/EC.AD/34)

15. The Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments exchanged information on medium- and long-term economic development in the ECE region. When discussing the situation in market economy countries the need to pursue structural adjustments was generally agreed upon. The elaboration and implementation of reforms in modernizing planning and management systems was singled out as a main contributing factor to future development of centrally planned economy countries.

16. The Senior Economic Advisers devoted special attention to the analysis of growth conditions in the period 1991-1995. To facilitate future work in this field, delegates accepted to reply to a questionnaire based on the assumptions set out in the Overall Economic Perspective to the Year 2000. It was also agreed that the work on the data base and macro-economic models undertaken by the secretariat contributed effectively to the work of the Senior Economic Advisers and should be continued as a long-term effort.

17. The Senior Economic Advisers discussed the recommendations of the ad hoc Meeting on Personal and Collective Services held in October 1988. In view of the importance and complexity of this subject, they accepted the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands to hold a Seminar on Personal and Collective Services in that country in the autumn of 1990.

18. A new programme element on sustainable economic development was introduced in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the ad hoc Meeting of Experts on the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development which stressed the need for a cross-sectoral approach in ECE

activities and recommended co-operation between the Senior Economic Advisers and the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems. The latter were invited to co-operate in the activity under this programme element. Likewise, the Senior Economic Advisers participated in the Task Force on Environment and Economics established by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems. This joint task force prepared a report which was submitted to the ad hoc Meeting on Environment and Economics in January 1990.

D. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ECE/SC.TECH/37)

19. The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology held an exchange of views on the transition from an industrial and technological society to a scientific and information society.

20. The outcome of both the Seminar on Evaluation in the Management of R and D held in Madrid (Spain) in April 1989 and the Seminar on the Prediction of Earthquakes held in Lisbon (Portugal) in November 1988 was considered. Certain follow-up action was initiated. Preparations for the Seminar on the Role of Long-term Forecasting in the Formulation of Science and Technology Policies to be held in Prague (Czechoslovakia) in April 1990 were initiated.

21. The Senior Advisers continued to collect information for the inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology and requested the secretariat to act as a depository for national reports, regulations and legislation on the subject.

22. Consideration was given to new areas for co-operation, including promotion of contacts among young scientists; possible directions of international scientific and technological co-operation in the ECE region; ways and means to increase the innovation work of small and medium-sized enterprises; and contribution to the follow-up action to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

E. ENERGY

(a) General Energy

23. In accordance with a decision taken by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy at their sixth session, a Preparatory Meeting for the Study on the Interrelationship between Environmental and Energy Policies took place in May 1989. The meeting developed an outline for the study, a draft of which was reviewed by an ad hoc Meeting in January 1990 (ENERGY/AC.10/4).

24. The Symposium on the Optimum Use of Primary Energy Resources in Meeting Final Heat Demand was held in Prague (Czechoslovakia) in June 1989 (ENERGY/SEM.7/2). A Preparatory Meeting was held in November 1989 (ENERGY/SEM.9/AC/2) for a Symposium on Energy Efficiency Measures in Industry, to be held in Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) in 1991.

25. In the "ECE Energy Series", two titles were published in 1989: "Energy Efficiency in European Industry", and "Energy Balances for Europe and North America 1970-2000". Vol. XX of the Annual Bulletin of General Energy Statistics for Europe, referring to 1987, was also issued in 1989.

26. The UNDP/ECE Project on Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning proceeded with the elaboration of national building surveys in participating countries, as a prerequisite for enhancement studies.

27. The ECE Energy Data Bank was updated to include 1988. East-West energy trade in 1988 was analysed in document ENERGY/R.50.

(b) Coal (ECE/COAL/117)

28. The Coal Committee examined its entire programme of work and identified priority topics. It examined current developments as well as medium- and long-term perspectives of the coal industry in the ECE region, including coal trade.

29. Work is in progress on the examination of draught survey techniques and equipment specifications for determining the weight of bulk coal cargoes and on an International Classification of Coals. A Symposium on the Prevention and Suppression of Rockbursts and Sudden Outbursts of Coal, Rock and Gas was held in Ostrava (Czechoslovakia) in October 1989. An inquiry on coal industry or Government sponsored studies of direct relevance to the coal combustion - CO_2 issue was undertaken.

30. The Committee reviewed research and scientific issues; co-operation in preparation and utilization of coal; activities under the UNDP/ECE Inter-Country Project on International Co-operative Research on Low-Calorie Solid Fuel Technology as well as preparation of meetings on opencast and underground mining technologies and safety.

(c) Electric Power (ECE/EP/80)

31. The Committee on Electric Power concentrated on problems of planning and operating large power systems, electric power stations, and the relationship between electricity and the environment. The Committee paid particular attention to the interconnection of the electric power systems of central Europe, and the implications of climate change for electricity supply.

32. A Seminar on New Developments in Geothermal Energy was held in Ankara (Turkey) in May 1989, at which the present status of geothermal projects in the ECE region and in the world, reservoir evaluation and progress made in technology and in methods and models to study the economic feasibility of projects were reviewed. Preparations continued for the Seminar on Rational Use of Electricity to be held in Iassi-Moldavia (Romania) in November 1990.

(d) Gas (ECE/GAS/97)

33. The Committee on Gas explored the prospects of organizing a symposium in co-operation with ESCWA and ECA on the long-term prospects of gas market developments in these regions and their relationship and impact to the ECE region, as well as organizing a symposium on the use of isotopes in prospecting for natural gas and preparations for the Symposium on the Use of Computers in the Gas Industry (GAS/SEM.14). Environmental aspects associated with gas industry operations and practices, including their impact on climate change were examined, and specific topics for further study were included in

the programme of work, as well as certain topics resulting from the Symposium on Underground Gas Storage, held in Paris (France) in May 1989 (GAS/SEM.13/2). The Committee reviewed research and development initiatives in the field of gas (GAS/R.166) to identify selected long-term research topics for inclusion in its programme of work.

F. INDUSTRY

(a) Steel (ECE/STEEL/67)

34. The Steel Committee reviewed the factors influencing steel consumption, the position of steel in the face of competitive materials and of steel products in several main steel-consuming sectors, improving forecasts of steel consumption, international steel trade data and information on economic aspects of new technologies on a world-wide basis. The annual Review of the Steel Market in 1988 (ECE/STEEL/66) was published.

35. The Seminar on the Economic and Technical Aspects of the Modernization of the Iron and Steel Industry was held at Krakow (Poland) in May 1989 and a study tour of the steel industry in Hungary took place in September 1989.

36. Preparations began for two seminars: one on technical and economic aspects of the manufacture and application of coated steel products, to be held at Genoa (Italy) in May 1990, and one on producers' and users' metallurgical requirements in the welding of steel products, to be held in Kiev (Ukrainian SSR) in 1991.

37. The Steel Committee completed two studies: one on the importance of the iron and steel industry for the economic activity of ECE member countries and one on the economic utilization of by-products. Work continued on the updating of the UN/ECE steel statistical system. The fourth regular updating of the world iron and steel scrap situation was published.

(b) Chemical Industry (ECE/CHEM/74)

38. The Chemical Industry Committee completed its study on membrane technology in the chemical industry (ECE/CHEM/72). Work on the study on the rational use of water and its treatment in the chemical industry and on substitutes for tripolyphosphate in detergents continued. The Committee decided to undertake two new studies: on engineering plastics and on recycling of plastics in ECE member countries.

39. The Seminar on the Role of the Chemical Industry in Environmental Protection was held in November 1989. Preparatory work has been undertaken for the Seminar on Possibilities and Limitations of East-West Joint Ventures in the Chemical Industry, to be held in November 1990 in Poland.

(c) Engineering Industries and Automation (ECE/ENG.AUT/42)

40. The Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation continued its work on the study of food-processing machinery, including packaging techniques, and the second ad hoc meeting for the study will be held in October 1990. A first ad hoc Meeting for the study on low-waste processes and automated equipment for the production of precision implements for engineering

industries was held in February 1990. The Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation, 1988 (ECE/ENG.AUT/39) was completed.

41. The Seminar on Computer Integrated Manufacturing was held at Botevgrad (Bulgaria) in September 1989, and preparations began for the Seminar on Air Pollution Control in Engineering Industries (November 1990) and the first workshop on rehabilitation engineering to be held in Washington, D.C. (United States of America) in June 1990.

42. The second Joint Meeting with the Conference of European Statisticians on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineeering Industries and Automation was held in October 1989.

G. TRANSPORT (ECE/TRANS/78 and 81)

43. The analysis of traffic flows on traffic corridors aimed at establishing an intermodal approach to transport within an international context was pursued actively and acquired a new impulse and significance in the light of economic and political developments in the east European region.

44. A study (white paper) has been prepared on international rail transport in Europe.

45. On the basis of a study on the development of a homogeneous network of international combined transport, carried out in 1988/1989, a first draft of a European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) has been finalized.

46. The revision of the customs conventions on the temporary importation of private road vehicles (1954) and of commercial road vehicles (1956) is nearly completed and is expected to be submitted to Contracting Parties for approval in 1990. The first draft of a new world-wide Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers used in international transport has been finalized.

47. A Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport was held and follow-up action is being undertaken by the secretariat to bring about a consensus on container and other loading unit dimensions as a basis for establishing a new ISO world standard.

48. Work on the revision of the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals (1968) is nearly completed. Arrangements have been made for a "Road Safety Week" to take place from 1 to 7 October 1990.

49. A new convention on civil liability for damage caused during the transport of dangerous goods was opened for signature on 1 February 1990. Revised versions of the Recommendations of the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (orange book) and of the technical annexes to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (1957) have been issued.

50. The Working Party on Transport Statistics continued its consideration of the methodological development, harmonization and reconciliation of unharmonized transport statistics, particularly with regard to road transport, and continued work on the establishment of an ECE transport data base.

51. Implementation of the project on the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) progressed satisfactorily. The Constitutive meeting of the Trans-European North-South Railway Project (TER) will take place from 26-29 March 1990. This new project is designed to facilitate and develop railway traffic in Europe by co-ordinating existing national railway systems in the technical, economic and managerial aspects.

52. New additional regulations concerning the construction of vehicles were elaborated and a number of existing ones (85) were updated.

H. AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

(a) Agriculture (ECE/AGRI/107)

53. The Committee on Agricultural Problems continued its detailed review of the European markets for cereals, livestock and meat and milk and dairy products, as well as European trade in agricultural products and prices received and paid by agricultural producers. The Committee relaunched its earlier work on agricultural accounts, reviewing the development of agricultural output and inputs over a number of years, but putting this work on a new basis which allowed a common presentation of country data irrespective of differences in socio-economic systems.

54. Two symposia were organized in 1989, one dealing with the use of new and non-conventional feeds in ruminant nutrition (jointly with FAO) and the other one on improved irrigation practices to preserve and protect water resources and increase crop yields (jointly with the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems). A technical draft report was prepared on modern possibilities of genetic engineering for the selection of agricultural plants.

55. The Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and its Groups of Experts revised a number of standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, adopted UN/ECE standards for unshelled pistachio nuts, for Chinese cabbages, for mangoes and poultry meat (including an explanatory brochure). The Working Party also agreed on an explanatory brochure for the UN/ECE standards for eggs in shell. In seeking to improve practical forms of co-operation with the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission on standards for fresh tropical fruit and vegetables, the Working Party insisted in particular on the full use of the ECE Standard Layout in any new Codex standard for fresh produce.

56. The FAO/ECE Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture finalized three technical reports on various aspects of mechanization. It decided to take up work on the longer-term trends and prospects of mechanization in the ECE region.

57. The FAO/ECE Working Party on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization met in February 1990 to discuss the impact of environmental legislation on agriculture, including the economic consequences. The FAO/ECE/CES Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe considered and finalized documents on the harmonization of questionnaires on agricultural accounts and on a world data bank of food and agriculture.

(b) Timber (ECE/TIM/49)

58. Complementing the Timber Committee's European Timber Trends and Prospects to the Year 2000 and Beyond, a study on long-term developments in the USSR has been published, and another on North America has reached an advanced stage of preparation. Preparations are going ahead for the next European study, which will be the fifth in the series. The Committee approved the recommendations of the team of specialists on the scope and outline, forecasting methodologies, timetable and assistance to be sought from countries in carrying out the study, which will be a major activity of the Committee in the first half of the 1990s. A survey on medium-term trends for wood raw material, notably pulpwood and wood for energy, was prepared.

59. The Committee has kept under review the current situation and short-term outlook for forest products markets; its annual assessment of the market for 1989 and outlook for 1990 has been complemented by the publication in other issues of the Timber Bulletin of forest products production and trade data. The study sponsored by the Committee and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) on European trade and markets for tropical hardwoods was published in 1989. Proposals were formulated for a similar study to be undertaken on North America.

60. The Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission approved the proposal to change the title of their joint subsidiary body to Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training. Seminars were held under its auspices in 1989 in Finland on the training of professional forest workers; in Belgium on the impact of the mechanization of forest operations on the soil; and in Turkey on the mechanization of harvesting operations in mountainous terrain. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics held its biennial session in 1989. A major item was the completion of preparations for the temperate-zone part of the Global Forest Resource Assessment 1990 (FAO will deal with the tropical part). Roundwood prices and specifications, questions related to the collection and dissemination of statistics and forest products end-use analysis were also covered.

61. Among other activities in 1989 were a study tour in Spain, meetings of the teams of specialists dealing with wood and energy, with the implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets and with the practical application of satellite sensing for forest damage assessment. The first two issues of the biannual International Forest Fire News were issued as well as the biennial Forest Fire Statistics.

I. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (ECE/HBP/76)

62. The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning discussed how to adapt the experiences derived from ECE activities to the needs of the forthcoming decade and to the need to assist developing countries in implementing the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. A Seminar on the Effectiveness of Settlement Planning, held in London (United Kingdom) in October 1989, adopted conclusions on government policy in this field and recommended that the Committee pursue further work on human settlements aspects of sustainable development. Preparations were started for a seminar on comprehensive

policies for renewal and modernization of settlements, to be held at Vilnius (USSR) in May 1991. Preparations were also started for a symposium on planning for international tourism, to be held in the early 1990s.

63. Studies on rent policy and on research in the field of human settlements were finalized. The last chapters of the Compendium of Model Provisions for Building Regulations were also finalized. A draft action-plan on the promotion of international trade in construction products, including a draft framework agreement on the adoption of uniform rules for the approval and certification of construction products, was considered by the Committee.

J. STATISTICS (ECE/CES/34)

64. The Conference of European Statisticians discussed the possibilities for enhancing the informative role of statistics through comprehensive analysis and interpretation of data. There was general agreement that analysis can greatly increase the informative value of statistics. It was suggested that an exchange of experience on analytical methods take place at a future plenary session or at an ad hoc meeting of experts.

65. Another topic of substantive discussion was the use of micro-computers in statistical services. Against the background of an explosive development in this field several aspects were distinguished. In the first instance, important differences were identified in the objectives being pursued through the use of micro-computers. Secondly, a number of organizational schemes were being implemented, which could be defined in terms of the level of communication between micro-computers on the one hand and between micro-computers and mainframes on the other. Thirdly, the increasing use of micro-computers has created additional demands on the qualifications of statistical staff. Last but not least, the large-scale use of micro-computers necessitates that special measures be taken in order to safeguard the quality attributes of statistics. In view of the importance of this topic, the Conference will give it the necessary attention in the future also.

66. Work in the field of economic statistics continued to focus on the revision of the System of National Accounts, links between the SNA and the MPS, and international comparisons of macro-economic data and purchasing power parities. In addition, the Conference paid increasing attention to new areas of work (i.e. statistics of services) or to subjects on which satisfactory international guidelines have not yet been found in past work (i.e. income distribution statistics). The Conference co-operated with the Inland Transport Committee in convening the Working Party on Transport Statistics and with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation in convening a joint meeting on questions of statistics concerning engineering industries and automation.

67. In the field of social and demographic statistics, a meeting on statistics of women was held jointly with INSTRAW, and two seminars were convened, one on the importance of population and housing census data (in Wiesbaden, Federal Republic of Germany) and the other on demographic projections (in Balatonöszöd, Hungary). In addition, the Statistical Division provided substantial support to the work of the Population Activities Unit. Moreover, in accordance with paragraph 8 of decision C (44), the Division is investigating ways and means by which the publication and exchange of

statistics in the field of demography could be increased. Some of the subject areas identified for consideration are: statistics on women; population and housing censuses; migration; and human settlements. Preparations have begun for the seminar on the demographic and economic consequences and implications of changing population age structures, to be held in Ottawa (Canada) in September 1990 in collaboration with the UNFPA.

68. In the field of environment statistics, the Conference finalized work on two ECE Standard Statistical Classifications: Water Use and Land Use. The classification of ambient air quality is ready for final approval. In addition, the draft waste classification was revised, a new draft classification of ecological freshwater quality was prepared, and a draft structure for statistics on economic aspects of environmental protection was established. The last three drafts are currently being tested in conjunction with the preparation of the 1991 Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics.

69. The preparation of the 1991 Compendium is advancing as part of the fully-fledged establishment of the International Environmental Data Service (IEDS), which the Conference included in its programme of work in 1988. The purpose of IEDS is to make available to both ECE member countries and to other users a service whereby internationally comparable environment statistics can be obtained upon request. In satisfying requests, the ECE secretariat will draw on its continually updated environmental data base and on its working relations with statistical offices in member countries. IEDS is expected to become fully operational in 1991, and already requests have been received and answered.

70. In addition to mainstream activities leading to operational results, the Conference continues to provide for the discussion of methodological problems between national experts of environment statistics at annual meetings.

71. The publication of statistical bulletins in special fields of interest to the Commission has continued. Major revisions have taken place in the reporting system as well as in the presentation of data in the Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe. In all bulletins showing data on foreign trade statistics, the revised trade classification, SITC Rev.3, has been introduced. A new updated version of the methodological Supplement to the Statistical Indicators of Short-term Economic Changes in ECE Countries has been published.

72. In the field of electronic data processing, the Conference focused its attention on the use of micro-computers for statistical purposes - a theme currently looming large in statistical offices of the region. The Working Party on Electronic Data Processing considered specific organizational and technological aspects of the introduction of micro-computers into the statistical production process.

73. Results were also obtained in the joint work of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project Phase 2 (SCP-2), devoted to the introduction of micro-computers into statistical systems. The list of SCP-2 outputs has been disseminated to all countries participating in the Project, the other regional commissions and through this channel to developing countries. It is expected that all scheduled outputs of the SCP-2 will be finalized by the end of 1990.

74. The establishment of the telecommunications network between national statistical offices and the ECE secretariat is a project of considerable importance to future work, and progress is currently being made in its implementation. The Conference endorsed the importance of the development of international standards for electronic data interchange of statistical information within the framework of UN/EDIFACT.

K. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

75. The Economic Survey of Europe 1988-1989 (April 1989) provided an analysis of current economic developments and the short-term outlook in the market economies of western Europe and North America, a short note on foreign direct investment in southern Europe and a special study on the effects of west European integration on imports of manufactures from eastern and southern Europe.

76. The analysis of the centrally planned economies included an assessment of medium- and short-term developments, and of prospects for the fulfilment of the five-year plans 1986-1990. In addition, there was a special study of retail trade in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the period 1960-1987.

77. The chapter on east-west economic relationships included an analysis of eastern current account positions, and of the underlying changes in east-west trade.

78. The Economic Bulletin for Europe Vol.41, (November 1989) provided a review of short-term foreign trade developments in the region with special emphasis on east-west trade and finance. It also contained research notes on east-west trade in services and on east-west trade in investment goods in the period 1970-1987.

79. In the field of population, work continued on five projects funded by the UNFPA: (1) Economic and social implications of aging in the ECE region, which should result in a special ECE publication by mid-1990; (2) Population developments and migration in southern Europe; (3) Promotion of fertility and family surveys in the ECE region, for which a second expert group meeting was convened in January 1990; (4) Economic and social consequences of changing population structures (stage 2 of project 1 above); (5) Integration of population policies and socio-economic policies, for which the first in a series of meetings is scheduled for May 1990. A joint ECE/INSTRAW project was started in 1989 on the time-use of women in ECE countries.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-fifth session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(b))

RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1989, and by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, namely during the period since the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council (E/1989/89 and Add.1) and of the General Assembly (A/44/49).

GE.90-20922 /5555a

PART I

A. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, 1989

1989/3 International economic classifications

3. The Council in operative paragraph 1 recommended that Member States adopt, as soon as possible, the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3, with such modifications as may be necessary to meet national requirements, without disturbing the framework of the classification, or use, for purposes of international comparison, ISIC, Rev. 3, in reporting data classified according to kind of economic activity. The Member States are called on to make use of the provisional Central Product Classification in order to gain experience in obtaining international comparability for data classified according to goods and services.

4. The Conference of European Statisticians at its thirty-seventh session was informed that the Economic and Social Council had adopted these two classification systems and Member States were called on to implement the respective recommendations.

1989/52 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

5. In operative paragraph 1 of this resolution the Council called upon Member States, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further the practical implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons during the second half of the Decade, based on the list of priorities and programmes set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 43/98.

6. At its ninth session the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation agreed that a study should be undertaken on rehabilitation engineering technology. The study should focus on devices and systems for living which supported a person's daily activities at home, at school and at work, thus extending his or her period of independent living and activity.

7. The first of a series of workshops on the subject will be held in Washington, D.C. (United States of America) on 14-16 June 1990 under the auspices of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation in co-operation with the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE).

8. At its fiftieth session the Inland Transport Committee invited its subsidiary bodies to intensify their efforts aimed at finding harmonized solutions to hindrance of mobility of disabled and elderly persons (ECE/TRANS/74, para. 242). At its fifty-second session the Committee had before it a note containing information on the work of its subsidiary bodies on the subject and a summary of the information on measures taken in this field received by the secretariat from member States.

1989/93 Work programme in the field of population

9. In operative paragraph 4 of this resolution the Council requested the Secretary-General, in formulating the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to take into account, inter alia, guidelines for the work programme of the United Nations Secretariat which call for continued work on the following:

(i) Comparative analysis of population policies;

(ii) Studies on reproductive behaviour and on family planning and its demographic impact;

(iii) Studies on internal and international migration and on comparative patterns of urbanization and population distribution.

10. With the financial assistance of UNFPA, the ECE is carrying out projects in each of these three areas of work as follows: integration of population policies and socio-economic policies; promotion of fertility and family surveys in the ECE region; and substantive and policy issues in international migration.

1989/97 Programme questions

11. In operative paragraph 2 of this resolution the Council "Stresses the need for the sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies to consider in a timely manner the draft programmes of work within their areas of responsibility, in order that their recommendations may be taken into account by the Secretary-General when preparing his proposed programme budget." Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Commission decision A (44), the work of the Sessional Committee, the Commission will have before it the Executive Secretary's preliminary draft budget proposal for the biennium 1992/1993.

1989/104 Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

12. In response to operative paragraph 3(a) of this resolution the new and amended recommendations of the Committee have been issued in English and French. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the resolution the Committee's subsidiary bodies have been merged into a single sub-committee. In response to paragraph 8 of the resolution the Executive Secretary has initiated administrative procedures to provide appropriate staffing resources for this work.

1989/106 Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

13. In this resolution the Council requested the Secretary-General to incorporate statistical indicators relating to women in future editions of the World Economic Survey, and in the next edition of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, to focus on socio-economic aspects, inter alia, of emerging trends with respect to women and education, health, population, income distribution, employment and environment issues, as well as the participation of women in decision-making. It invited the regional

commissions, within their terms of reference, to provide relevant inputs for this purpose. The ECE has begun consultations with INSTRAW and the other regional commissions with a view to identifying parallel activities in the field of women.

14. The Conference of European Statisticians, in continuing its work on the development of statistics and indicators on women, convened a second ECE/INSTRAW Joint Meeting on Statistics. The meeting recommended that the secretariat produce a publication containing key statistics and indicators on the situation of women in countries of the ECE region which, if approved by the Conference, could constitute an input to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. With the financial assistance of INSTRAW, the secretariat is currently carrying out a small project on time-use of women. Under the project five studies have been prepared on issues such as the effects on time-use of economic activity of women outside the home, with special reference to part-time work; the informal and domestic household work of women in countries with centrally-planned economies; and a cohort/generation analysis of time-use patterns of women. In addition an inventory of time-use studies and data sources in the ECE region, together with a computerized data bank, is being prepared. (See also E/ECE/1212)

1989/118 Interregional co-operation for facilitation of international trade

15. By its decision L (44) the Commission, reaffirming the importance for all countries to be in a position to derive full benefit from electronic data interchange using the United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), recommended that ECOSOC consider a project for interregional co-operation, based on project documents detailing technical and resource requirements, from regional commissions in co-operation with other appropriate United Nations bodies aimed at promoting a world-wide application of UN/EDIFACT.

16. Accordingly the Council adopted decision 1989/118 which invited the regional commissions to formulate, jointly with UNCTAD, a draft proposal for interregional co-operation, to be submitted for approval to the Council at its second regular session of 1990; requested the regional commissions to consult with the funding organizations, notably UNDP, concerning the financial resources available for possible execution of the draft proposal; and recommended to the Executive Secretary that, in examining closely the resources required for maintenance and development activity, consideration be given to the issue of what resources might be made available to support this activity.

17. In consultation with the other regional commissions and UNCTAD, a draft proposal for interregional co-operation for facilitation of international trade and the phased application of UN/EDIFACT is being prepared for submission to ECOSOC at its second regular session in 1990. An assessment of resources required for UN/EDIFACT maintenance and development activity will be brought to the attention of the Commission. (See also E/ECE/1216)

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

44/70 Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

18. In operative paragraph 3 of this resolution, the Assembly urged Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to translate into action at all levels, as appropriate, the priorities for global activities and programmes during the second half of the Decade, such as those set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 43/98. In operative paragraph 7 the Secretary-General was requested to encourage all organs of the United Nations, including the regional commissions, international organizations and specialized agencies, to take into account in their programmes and operational activities the specific needs of disabled persons. In operative paragraph 9, the Secretary-General was requested to strengthen the regional commissions to enable these to promote technical co-operation activities and the sharing of national resources for personal training, the exchange of information, policy and programme development and research and the participation of disabled persons.

19. Information concerning ECE activities relevant to the implementation of this resolution is contained in paragraphs 5 to 8 above.

44/67 Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities

20. In this resolution the Assembly endorsed the outline of a programme of United Nations activities in the field of aging for 1992 and beyond, and noted with interest that aging is being considered as a priority theme of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider the feasibility of preparing a system-wide medium-term plan on aging in order to ensure that all concerned organizations of the United Nations system address the question of aging in a coherent and effective manner. It also acknowledged with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the training programme and activities of the International Institute on Aging in Malta and welcomed the unique contributions of the Institute to the implementation of the Plan of Action.

21. With the financial assistance of UNFPA the ECE is carrying out activities in the field of aging of population. In particular, a publication entitled Advanced population aging: demographic and economic implications in the ECE region is being finalized. It will include studies on demographic aspects of the aging of population and on economic and labour market implications of aging.

22. The ECE secretariat is actively considering new directions for research in the field of population aging with the assistance of UNFPA. Research areas under review include morbidity and mortality conditions among the elderly and changes in the size and composition of families associated with the aging of population. Selected activities relating to this research may be organized by the ECE in co-operation with the International Institute on Aging.

44/194 Programme planning

23. In operative paragraph 4 of this resolution the Assembly "Invites also the functional, sectoral and regional intergovernmental bodies to consider, in a timely manner, the draft medium-term plan and programme budget proposals within their areas of responsibility, in order that their recommendations may be taken into account by the Secretary-General when preparing his proposed medium-term plan and programme budget;".

24. At its forty-fourth session, including the Resumed Session, the Commission considered the ECE medium-term plan for 1992-1997 in accordance with the above provisions. Similarly the Executive Secretary's preliminary draft budget proposal for the biennium 1992-1993 has been submitted to the Commission for consideration at its forty-fifth session.

44/207 Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

25. The resolution requests intergovernmental bodies to support fully and participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and, while awaiting the outcome of the negotiations on a framework convention on climate, to consider the range of possible options for averting the potentially damaging impacts of climate change, for removing the causes of the phenomenon and for developing programmes.

26. The ECE secretariat participated in the first and second sessions of the IPCC (Geneva, 9-11 November 1988 and Nairobi, 28-30 June 1989), the second session of the IPCC Working Group III on Response Strategies (Geneva, 2-6 October 1989) and the second session of the IPCC Working Group II on Impacts (Geneva, 31 October - 3 November 1989).

27. Substantive issues related to climate change were taken up by the following Principal Subsidiary Bodies:

- the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, at an ad hoc Meeting on Environment and Economics (8-10 January 1990), considered a report entitled "Environment and Economics" (ENVWA/AC.5/R.1);

- the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy, at an ad hoc Meeting on the Study on the Interrelationships between Environmental and Energy Policies (29-31 January 1990), considered and approved the study (ENERGY/AC.10/R.2) and took note of its addenda);

- the Committee on Electric Power, through an ad hoc Meeting on Implications of Climate Change for Electricity Supply (6 October 1989), further developed its work programme in this area (EP/GE.4/34, Annex);

- the Coal Committee considered a study on "Coal Combustion and the CO_2 Issue" (COAL/R.142) and decided to undertake an inquiry into "Coal Industry or Government-Sponsored Studies of Direct Relevance to the Coal Combustion-CO_2 Issue" (ECE/COAL/119, para. 58);

- the Committee on Gas considered a secretariat report on "Energy, the Environment and Climate Changes - the Role of Gas" (GAS/R.182), and decided to include an element in its programme of work on "Interrelationship between Gas and Climate Change";

- the Inland Transport Committee's Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles in June 1989 adopted a new ECE Regulation to be annexed to the 1958 Agreement for road vehicles equipped with internal combustion engines with regard to the measurement of fuel consumption (TRANS/SC1/WP29/248, para. 62). This is considered as a prerequisite for any future limits on fuel consumption in view of reducing the CO_2 emissions in road traffic.

44/226 Traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes

28. In operative paragraph 1 of this resolution the Assembly "Requests each regional commission, within existing resources, to contribute to the prevention of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes by monitoring and making regional assessments of this illegal traffic and its environmental and health implications, on a continuing basis, in each region ....".

29. ECE work to date is limited to facilitating the safe transport of dangerous goods, including wastes.

30. In operative paragraph 2 of the resolution the Assembly "Also requests the regional commissions to interact among themselves, and in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to maintaining efficient and co-ordinated monitoring and assessment of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes".

31. The regional commissions have begun a series of consultations with UNEP on a range of environmental issues, including traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

44/228 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

32. In operative paragraph 13 of this resolution the Assembly "Stresses the importance of holding regional conferences on environment and development with the full co-operation of the regional commissions, and recommends that the results of such regional conferences be introduced into the preparatory process for the 1992 Conference, bearing in mind that regional conferences should make important substantive contributions to the Conference".

33. By its decisions A (43) and G (44) the Commission agreed to co-operate with the Government of Norway in preparing and convening a Regional Conference at the Ministerial Level to follow up the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) which will be held in Bergen (Norway) from 8 to 16 May 1990. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference agreed that the Regional Conference will constitute an important contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

34. The Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1211) gives an account of activities since the forty-fourth session on the follow-up to the Report of the WCED.

44/236 International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

35. In operative paragraph 3 of this resolution, the Assembly adopted the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction contained in the annex to the resolution. The following were among the goals of the Decade referred to in the International Framework of Action:

- To foster scientific and engineering endeavours aimed at closing critical gaps in knowledge in order to reduce loss of life and property;

- To disseminate existing and new technical information related to measures for the assessment, prediction and mitigation of natural disasters;

- To develop measures for the assessment, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters through programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer, demonstration projects and education and training, tailored to specific disasters and locations, and to evaluate the effectiveness of those programmes.

36. The Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1210) gives an account of activities in the field of the prediction of earthquakes since the forty-fourth session.

PART II

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (REGULAR SESSIONS, 1989)

1989/6 Development of energy resources and efficient use of energy production and utilization infrastructures

1989/30 Programme planning and activities to advance the status of women

1989/32 Preparations for the session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1990 to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

1989/38 Elderly women

1989/50 Second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging

1989/87 Convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development

1989/91 Convening of an international meeting on population in 1994

1989/92 Strengthening actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action

1989/93 Work programme in the field of population

1989/99 International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

1989/105 Co-ordination of activities of the United Nations system to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development

1989/106 Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

1989/114 Further measures for the implementation of Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council

1989/119 Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY (FORTY-FOURTH SESSION)

44/21 Enhancing international peace, security and international co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations

44/67 Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities

44/82 International Year of the Family

44/103	Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields
44/185	Personnel questions
44/207	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
44/224	International co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergencies
44/226	Traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes
44/229	International co-operation in the field of the environment
44/231	Report of the Secretary-General on General Assembly resolution 42/165
44/239	Emergency humanitarian assistance to Romania
44/116	General and complete disarmament Part J: Conversion of military resources

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-fifth session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(c))

COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES DESIGNED TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. This Note is prepared in accordance with operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of Commission resolution 1 (44). The activities described below are considered to be of particular interest to ECE countries which are developing from the economic point of view and to developing countries of other regions. 1/ In the past year 41 countries from other regions have participated in ECE meetings.

Programme 01 - Policy and co-ordination of the work of the Commission as a whole

Sub-programme 01.2 Economic developments, problems and prospects

2. Volume 41 of the Economic Bulletin for Europe includes an analysis of the external position and debt problems of developing countries (in chapter 1). This issue also contains a study of "East-west trade in investment goods, 1970-1987" which reviews, inter alia, the role of the newly industrialized

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1/ Further relevant information is provided in the Executive Secretary's report on Economic Co-operation in the Mediterranean in the Light of the Final Act of the CSCE (E/ECE/1218).

economies in this field. The Economic Survey of Europe in 1989-1990 contains a separate section on recent developments in southern Europe and, in a special study, reviews "The effects of west European integration on imports of manufactures from eastern and southern Europe". Work continued in support of several projects in the field of population funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) which are of immediate interest to developing countries (see para. 41 below).

Programme 01(b) - General energy

3. The secretariat has contributed to the UNDP/FAO project on Development of Integrated Farm Energy Systems (RER/80/001) which was concluded in 1989; the UNDP/UNIDO project on Regional Co-operation in the Field of Industrial Energy Conservation (RER/83/003); and the UNDP/ECE project on Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning (RER/87/006), which is of particular relevance to the exploitation of new and renewable sources of energy and energy conservation policies in developing countries (see para. 34 below).

Programme 02 - Agriculture

4. Through its intensive work on the harmonization of commercial standards for perishable produce, the Committee on Agricultural Problems offers advice and assistance to developing countries which are interested in exporting certain fresh or dried fruit or vegetables to countries in the ECE region. To this end the secretariat has regularly contributed to seminars on quality control organized by the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT) for least-developed countries. Through its close links with various departments of FAO, the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture Section provides direct and indirect inputs to FAO's work on rural development, new and non-conventional feeding stuffs, selected aspects of soil fertility, the use of fertilizers and agricultural mechanization.

Programme 03 - Chemicals

5. The Chemical Industry Committee has completed a study on membrane technologies dealing, inter alia, with desalination of sea water which is of special interest to developing countries.

Programme 04 - Coal

6. The Coal Committee will issue in 1990 a survey of world coal trade up to the year 2000 which is of interest to developing countries which are coal producers. Similarly, the global potential of the new ECE classification of coals was endorsed by ECOSOC in its decision 1988/68: International Trade and Co-operation in the Field of Coal. Work has also continued in other areas of interest to countries with developing coal industries, particularly with regard to opencast mining and mine safety.

Programme 05 - Environment and Water

7. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are developing a framework agreement on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary

context aimed at enhancing co-operation in preventing adverse transboundary environmental effects in any region of the world. The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is focusing on several areas which are relevant to environmental protection in developing countries, such as strategies and policies for combating the discharge of air pollution; a co-operative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (EMEP); effects of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants on human health and the environment; technologies for controlling emissions; and economic aspects of emission control.

8. The Commission is co-operating closely with the Government of Norway in preparation of the Regional Conference at Ministerial level to follow-up the Report of the World Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Bergen (Norway) from 8-16 May 1990. The Regional Conference will make an important contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

9. Of particular interest in this connection is work carried out in the field of environment and economics aimed at defining the natural resource base for sustainable development, embedding environmental considerations in macro-economic indicators to achieve an optimal adjustment of economic activities to environmental concerns. The rational use of natural resources is considered to be a key element in the pursuit of sustainable development. Work has been carried out by a joint task force, with Norway as lead country, on environment and economics under the auspices of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Senior Economic Advisers. An ad hoc meeting held in January 1990 revised the report of the joint task force (ENVWA/R.33) and prepared draft recommendations to ECE Governments in the field of environment and economics and proposals for follow-up action. The results of the Seminar on Economic Implications of Low-waste Technology held in The Hague (Netherlands) from 16 to 19 October 1989 (ENVWA/SEM.3/3) are also of particular relevance to developing countries.

10. The ECE Charter on Groundwater Management adopted by the Commission at its forty-fourth session was given wide distribution in document ECE/ENVWA/12. Its aim is to assist Governments in formulating, adapting and implementing groundwater policies and strategies, both on a national and international level. As the Charter promotes policies for the protection of groundwater both as a source for drinking water supply and as an essential part of the ecological system, it is of particular relevance to developing countries.

11. The ECE Code of Conduct on accidental pollution of transboundary waters has been finalized. It provides guidance for reducing the risk of accidental pollution and increasing preparedness planning for emergencies and accidents. Work is under way on an ecosystems approach to water management, water-quality objectives and criteria, and protection of lakes and reservoirs against eutrophication. A Seminar on Improved Irrigation Practices to Preserve and Protect Water Resources and Increase Crop Yields jointly convened by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Committee on Agricultural Problems was held in Avignon (France) from 25 to 29 September 1989. The results of this Seminar (ENVWA/SEM.2/2) will be of interest to experts from developing countries.

12. Of particular significance to developing countries will be the Seminar on Waste-water Management to be held in Munich (Federal Republic of Germany) from 21 to 25 May 1990. This Seminar will provide a forum to exchange experiences gained in the development and appliation of policies and strategies for waste-water management, including water-pollution abatement at source. It will also help Governments to compare ways and means of integrating waste-water management into environmental socio-economic and sectoral policies and to keep under review techniques and means for collection and treatment of waste water and resulting sludge for safe discharge or disposal and/or possible re-use.

Programme 06 - Electric power

13. Work has continued on the planning of large power systems, thermal and nuclear power generation and on electricity and environment. An ad hoc meeting was held on the rational use of electricity and on electricity distribution outside major urban areas, the results of which have been shared with developing countries.

Programme 07 - Gas

14. Work in the field of natural and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is of interest to countries of the Mediterranean which make use, or intend to make use, of these gaseous fuels in covering their energy requirements. ESCWA is organizing a symposium on developments and prospects of natural gas and LPG to the year 2000 and beyond in early 1991 and the Committee on Gas has requested the secretariat to support ESCWA in organizing the symposium, taking into account the interests of countries bordering the Mediterranean which have established interregional gas trade, and prospects that such trade will increase in the future. ECA will also participate in the symposium.

15. The Committee has also decided to initiate a study on the prospects of further integration and extension of gas grids in the ECE region, which for countries bordering the Mediterranean is of particular significance as they seek to diversify and increase gas exports/imports.

16. In order to combat serious air pollution problems in a number of Mediterranean countries, alternative fuels to oil-based products are being actively promoted. This subject will be examined in the Symposium on the Use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and LPG for Internal Combustion Engines to be held in Kiev (Ukrainian SSR) in September 1991.

Programme 08 - Housing, building and planning

17. The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning considered a proposal that an evaluation be made of past activities in relation to their usefulness to developing countries outside the ECE region. The Committee will decide on this matter in September 1990 on the basis of revised proposals to be submitted by the Chairman and three rapporteurs.

Programme 09 - Inland transport

18. Technical advice is given by the secretariat to countries of Africa and Latin America interested in promoting the TIR system. In connection with the

International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods, the other regional commissions have been invited to take measures to promote resolution No. 230 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on technical measures for the implementation of the Convention.

19. Work on the implementation of the Trans-European North-South Motorway Project (TEM) has continued with the financial assistance of UNDP. The institutional and technical know-how accumulated during the previous phases of the TEM Project serve as the basis of outreach activities in the form of training programmes, workshops, expert services, publications, etc. for the benefit of countries outside the ECE region.

20. The UNDP project on International Transport Development: Mediterranean, Europe and Middle East was considered in March 1989 by a Task Force for Projects Related to Transport and Communications, convened by UNDP in preparation for the Mid-Term Review for the Fourth Cycle of UNDP Programmes for Europe which was held in July 1989. The Task Force decided that an independent consultant should reassess the scope and structure of the project and prepare a report for consideration at the Mid-Term Review Meeting. At that Meeting in July 1989 it was further decided that a decision as to the future of the project would be taken after all concerned had had an opportunity to study the consultant's report in depth. Following consultations between the UNDP and ECE secretariats and with the Governments concerned, it is envisaged to revise the project document in order to improve the co-ordination of activities with other projects, in particular concerning analyses of traffic flows and needs of non-ECE countries of the Mediterranean region.

21. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1987/69, requested the Executive Secretaries of ECE and ECA to submit to its second regular session of 1989 an interim report on the progress being made in the studies related to a Europe-Africa link through the Strait of Gibraltar. This report (E/1989/58) reviewed recent studies done with respect to the reconnaissance of the physical characteristics of the terrain as well as engineering, economic, financial and legal aspects of building such structures. At its second regular session in 1989 the Council adopted resolution 1989/119 inviting interested Governments and institutions to attend the International Colloquium on the Fixed Crossing to be held from 16 to 18 May 1990 in Marrakesh (Morocco) and asked the Executive Secretaries of ECE and ECA to submit an evaluation report to this colloquium as well as an interim report to the second regular session of the Council in 1991.

22. The secretariat has continued to service the activities of the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which elaborates rules and regulations on the transport of such goods throughout the world and by all modes. Developing countries benefit from the technological know-how on which these activities are based. In accordance with ECOSOC recommendations constant efforts are being made to promote participation of interested developing countries in the work of the Committee of Experts.

Programme 10 - Science and technology

23. Much of the ECE region lies in seismically active areas. As the economic impact of earthquakes increases with the level of economic development,

accurate and timely forecasts are becoming increasingly important. Pursuant to decision F (44), the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology considered the report of the Seminar on the Prediction of Earthquakes (Portugal, 1988) and agreed in principle to convene an ad hoc meeting towards the end of 1990 to formulate proposals on the follow-up to the Seminar.

Programme 12 - Statistics

24. The Conference of European Statisticians continues to support UNDP regional projects in statistics. The second phase of the Statistical Computing Project (SCP-2), aimed at assisting national statistical offices in introducing microcomputers in their EDP environments, started in 1987, with the participation of several developing countries (see para. 37 below).

Programme 13 - Steel industry

25. The annual review of the steel market, which highlights the most recent qualitative and quantitative trends both in the ECE region and globally and in the industrializing countries, and the Seminar on Economic and Technical Aspects of the Modernization of the Iron and Steel Industry (Krakow, Poland, May 1989) are examples of work in which co-operation with experts from developing countries has intensified. Similarly, ECE's study on the recuperation and economic utilization of by-products of the iron and steel industry, to be published in 1990, and its Seminar on Technical and Economic Aspects of the Manufacture and Application of Coated Steel Products (Genoa, Italy, May 1990) are of interest to developing countries.

Programme 14 - Timber

26. In accordance with the objectives of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, the host countries of two of its seminars in 1989, Finland and Turkey, provided financial assistance to enable participants from developing countries to attend. With forest fires one of the most serious problems faced by forest services in the Mediterranean area and in many developing countries, the Joint Committee continued its activities in this field, including the publication of a bi-annual International Forest Fire News and preparations for a seminar in 1991 on forest fire, land use and people.

27. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics has continued its efforts to transfer economic and statistical methods and experience to other regions, notably in the field of forest resource assessment. Steps were taken to provide forestry statistical units in developing countries with international and national forestry sector statistical material, including that generated by the Working Party. The study on European trade and markets for tropical hardwoods, carried out jointly by the Timber Committee and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), was published. Proposals were drawn up for a similar study on North America.

Programme 15 - Trade

28. The Committee on the Development of Trade in December 1989 discussed the trade problems of ECE member countries which are developing from the economic

point of view. It requested concerned member countries and the secretariat to make proposals for further studies on these problems.

29. The facilitation of international trade procedures has been identified by the Executive Secretaries of the five regional commissions as a subject for interregional co-operation. Conscious of the global importance of facilitation for improving the international trade of all countries, ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1989 adopted resolution 1989/118 calling on the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to formulate a project of interregional co-operation in this area that would promote the reduction, simplification and harmonization of formalities, procedures and documentation, in particular through the phased application of the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, UN/EDIFACT.

30. A project document for interregional co-operation has been prepared jointly by the secretariats of the regional commissions and UNCTAD. After consideration by the Commission at its forty-fifth session and by the other regional commissions, the project will be submitted to ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1990.

Co-operation with UNDP

31. As a focal point within the region for economic activities, the ECE co-operated with UNDP in organizing Intergovernmental Consultations for a Mid-term Review of the current UNDP Regional Programme for Europe. The Consultations were held in two parts; the first comprised a series of one-day meetings of task forces for the priority sectors (held in March 1989); the second was held from 2 to 3 July.

32. The ECE secretariat has continued to execute a number of operational projects with the financial support of the UNDP in the sectors of energy, environment, statistics and transport.

(a) Energy

International Co-operative Research on Low-calorie Solid-fuel Technology

33. The project is designed to increase the use of indigenous brown coal, lignite, peat and shale, the efficiency of its use and its evironmental acceptance, by co-ordinating national and initiating international research programmes. In 1989 Albania joined the other eight countries participating in the project.

Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning

34. This project is designed to develop and disseminate computer programmes which engineers and architects can use to design energy efficient buildings in European IPF countries, particularly those in the temperate to hot climatic zones. Computer programmes and training courses are based on the experience of France and the United Kingdom which have long-standing programmes in energy efficient building regulations and design techniques. In 1989 missions were undertaken to eight participating countries, including Malta, Turkey, Cyprus and Yugoslavia, in order to prepare national building surveys.

European Regional Co-operation in the Field of Industrial Energy Conservation

35. The Steering Committee (12-15 December 1989) reviewed progress in industrial energy conservation in European IPF countries and discussed the development of a financially self-sustaining organization on industrial energy conservation. The ECE secretariat contributed an annual report on energy conservation policy in the ECE region.

(b) Environment

Environmental management with the emphasis on air pollution control

36. Taking into account the critical proportions assumed by acid-rain and other air-pollution damage to the environment in the region, this project is designed to strengthen the permanent organizational and technical basis for joint action against air pollution, bearing in mind the provisions of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. It also aims to develop and improve institutions and mechanisms for policy making, legislation, planning and management, to promote technologies for emissions control from stationary sources, and in particular to strengthen the existing inter-country network of institutions to administer and maintain programmes for air pollution monitoring, research and information exchange. Sub-programmes launched in 1989 focus on low-emission combustion processes (lead country: Yugoslavia), by-product utilization and disposal (lead country: Malta), flue gas treatment and fuel treatment (lead country: Poland), standard-setting and economic incentives (lead country: Hungary).

(c) Statistics

Statistical Computing Project

37. Following the development of statistical processing systems for mainframe computers, the second phase of the project places emphasis on micro-computer applications. The objective is to improve prevailing conditions with respect to the application of software tools for national statistical offices as part of government information systems, taking into account the recent hardware revolution in micro-computers. An important part of the project continues to be its outreach activities, by which the results are made available to developing countries in other regions.

(d) Transport

Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) (RER/87/024)

38. Further progress was made in completing the technical basis of planning and constructing the TEM, including motorway design and construction procedures. Options for financing the construction were elaborated, as well as methods of operating the motorway on a uniform basis through the establishment of a co-operative system for a central administrative body and the conditions of the day-to-day operation of the motorway. Earlier technical studies were refined and made available to the countries of other regions. A close interface was maintained with the work of the Inland Transport Committee, particularly its work dealing with transport corridors conducive to links with other regions.

Trans-European North-South Railway Lines (TER) (RER/87/028)

39. This new project is designed to facilitate and develop railway traffic in Europe by co-ordinating existing national railway systems in their technical, economic and managerial aspects. The project will provide for: (i) studies and preliminary designs concerning possible improvements to the network; (ii) harmonization of construction schedules, if possible accelerating construction activities; (iii) harmonization of requirements for construction, maintenance, operation and management; (iv) identification of needs and possibilities for obtaining financial support; and (v) promotion of a higher level of expertise within the region as a result of systematic exchange of data and experience through seminars, training activities and collaboration in the execution of individual studies. A constitutive meeting for the project will be held from 26 to 29 March 1990.

International Transport Development: Mediterranean, Europe and the Middle East (RER/87/027)

40. A consultative project meeting was held on 8-9 December 1988. The objective of this ECE-UNDP project is the development and facilitation of multimodal transport through the improvement of interfaces, particularly in ports. The project is at present under reconsideration, in particular regarding the traffic flow analysis aspects, in the light of a report prepared by a UNDP consultant.

Co-operation with UNFPA

41. Work continued on three projects launched with the financial support of UNFPA: "Economic and Social Consequences of Changing Population Structures" (RER/88/P02), "Promotion of Fertility and Family Surveys in the ECE Region" (RER/88/P03) and "Integration of Population and Socio-economic Policies" (REF/88/P04). A major work entitled Advanced population aging: demographic and economic implications in the ECE region is being prepared for publication under the first project. The second project aims to assist ECE developing countries, as well as other countries in the region, with taking national fertility and family surveys in the first half of the 1990s. The aim of the third project is to assist the policy-making process in the region by documenting and disseminating national experiences with the formulation of population-related policies.

Interregional co-operation

42. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1 (44) the Executive Secretary has continued to participate actively in the meetings of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions.

43. As mentioned above in paragraph 29, trade facilitation is a priority work area for co-operation, and a joint interregional project on the subject is being prepared pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 1989/118 (see document E/ECE/1216 on EDIFACT).

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E

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-fifth session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(d))

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. Since its forty-fourth session, the Commission and the secretariat have continued to intensify their co-operation with other bodies of the United Nations, with the specialized agencies, with other intergovernmental organizations and with their secretariats. This co-operation has remained an important feature of the Commission's activities, as can be seen from the summary presentation contained in Annex I.

2. In addition to ongoing co-operation in the wide range of activities listed in Annex I and to avoid unnecessary duplication of work, the Executive Secretary and his senior staff have held consultations with the heads of a number of international organizations in order to strengthen further this co-operation. These include the heads of the following United Nations bodies: UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and INSTRAW; of the following specialized agencies: FAO, IMF, World Bank; and of the following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: CMEA, EEC, OECD, ECMT, ICC and IIASA.

3. The Executive Secretary and his senior staff have maintained regular contacts with all regional commissions on trade facilitation matters (EDIFACT) and environmental questions.

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4. The Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe, being held in co-operation with ECE, is due to take place in Venice (Italy) immediately before the Commission's forty-fifth session (3-6 April 1990). Periodic consultations at the senior management level have continued between the two secretariats with a view to enhancing further the substantive work of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division. Officers of the Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Timber Committee participated in meetings of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture and European Forestry Commission with a view to strengthening co-operation between the two organizations in the fields of agriculture and forestry.

5. The Executive Secretary paid a visit to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on 23-25 October 1989. Discussions focused on the growing co-operation of both organizations with the ECE with particular emphasis on economic reforms in eastern Europe and their ramifications for the world economy.

6. The Deputy Executive Secretary paid a visit to the Headquarters of CMEA in summer 1989 during which the following areas of work were identified for closer co-operation between the two secretariats in order to facilitate the contribution of CMEA to the work of ECE: statistics, standardization, trade facilitation, industry, transport, energy, and agriculture.

7. In July 1989 the Executive Secretary visited the headquarters of the European Community in Brussels and held talks with a number of Commissioners and other senior officials. Discussions focused on ways and means of enhancing co-operation between the two secretariats to facilitate the participation of the EC in the work of ECE.

8. The Executive Secretary participated in a meeting of all European Ministers of Transport in Budapest (Hungary) on 26 September 1989 dealing with road traffic safety and in a special session of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport dedicated to transport and the environment (Paris, France, 23 November 1989).

9. The Executive Secretary held consultations on 14 February 1990 with the Secretary-General of OECD and with the Secretary-General of ICC. In both cases the discussions focused on ways and means of intensifying co-operation in a number of priority tasks.

10. With a view to avoiding wherever possible a duplication of work between international organizations the Commission may wish to note that, in response to changes under way in eastern Europe, a number of other departments of the United Nations, international and intergovernmental organizations have in the past year launched new activities in the field of East-West economic co-operation. The Executive Secretary has consulted with such departments and organizations with a view to developing or strengthening ECE's co-operation with them and to avoiding duplication of work wherever possible.

11. The Commission and its subsidiary bodies have continued to benefit from the co-operation of many international non-governmental organizations during the same period. A list of such organizations is given in Annex II.

Programme category	United Nations	Specialized Agencies	Intergovernmental Organizations	Secretariat co-operation
01 - Policy and co-ordination of the work of the Commission	World Food Council (WFC) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) UN Environment Programme (UNEP) UN Development Programme (UNDP) UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	International Labour Organisation (ILO) Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) European Economic Community (EEC)	Council of Europe (CE) European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
01(a)- Engineering industries and automation		ILO, UNIDO	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), CMEA, EEC	OECD
01(b)- General energy	UNCTAD, UNDP	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNIDO	IAEA, EEC	International Energy Agency (IEA/OECD)
01(c)- Standardization and related activities			International Organization of Legal Metrology (IOLM)	

Programme category	United Nations	Specialized Agencies	Intergovernmental Organizations	Secretariat co-operation
02 - Agriculture	International Trade Centre (ITC)	FAO, World Health Organization (WHO)	GATT, CMEA, EEC	OECD
03 - Chemicals	UNCTAD, UNEP	ILO, UNIDO	GATT, CMEA, EEC	OECD
04 - Coal	UNDP	ILO	CMEA, EEC	IEA/OECD
05 - Environment and Water	UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, IMO, UNIDO, World Bank	IAEA, GATT, CMEA, EEC	CE, EFTA, OECD, IEA/OECD, Nordic Council, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), Oslo/ Paris Commission
06 - Electric Power			IAEA, CMEA, EEC	IEA/OECD
07 - Gas	ESCWA	ILO, WMO, World Bank	CMEA, EEC	IEA/OECD
08 - Housing, Building and Planning	HABITAT	ILO, WHO	EEC	CE, OECD, WTO, Nordic Council of Ministers
09 - Inland Transport	UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDP, UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNCSDHA)	ILO, FAO, WHO, IBRD/IMF, IMO, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	CMEA, EEC, Danube Commission (DC), European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Commission on	CE, OECD

Programme category	United Nations	Specialized Agencies	Intergovernmental Organizations	Secretariat co-operation
09 - Inland transport (cont.)			the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Central Office for International Railway Transport (OCTI), International Institute for Refrigeration (IIR), World Tourism Organization (WTO)	
10 - Science and technology	UN Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)	ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO	IAEA, CMEA, EEC	
11 - Economic plans, programmes and perspectives	UNCTAD, UNFPA, UNCSDHA	ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO	CMEA, EEC	CE, EFTA
12 - Statistics	UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDP, UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IMF, IMO, WMO, IBRD	CMEA, EEC, Inter-American Development Bank, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	OECD, IEA/ OECD, Nordic Statistical Secretariat, CE, HELCOM
13 - Steel	UNCTAD	ILO, UNIDO, World Bank	GATT, EEC, CMEA	OECD, Intermetall, SEAISI, IISI
14 - Timber	UNCTAD, UNEP	ILO, FAO, UNIDO	GATT, EEC, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	IEA/OECD
15 - Trade	UNCTAD, UNCITRAL	IMO, UNIDO, IMF	GATT, CMEA, EEC, CCC, OCTI	EFTA, OECD

ANNEX II

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING CO-OPERATED WITH THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

CATEGORY I

International Alliance of Women
International Chamber of Commerce
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Co-operative Alliance
International Council of Women
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Organization for Standardization
SOROPTIMIST International
World Federation of Trade Unions

CATEGORY II

Associated Country Women of the World
European Insurance Committee
Greenpeace International Council
International Air Transport Association
International Association of Ports and Harbours
International Bar Association
International Cargo Handling Co-ordination Association
International Chamber of Shipping
International Civil Airports Association
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation
International Council of Environmental Law
International Electrotechnical Commission
International Federation for Housing and Planning
International Federation of University Women
International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee
International Road Federation
International Road Transport Union
International Statistical Institute
International Touring Alliance
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
International Union of Architects
International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy
International Union of Public Transport
Junior Chamber International
World Energy Conference
World LPG Forum
World Organization of Building Officials

ROSTER

Arab Iron and Steel Union
Batelle Memorial Institute
European Advisory Council for Technology Trade
European Confederation of Agriculture
European Council of Chemical Manufacturers' Federations
European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association
Federation of European Manufacturers of Friction Materials
Friends of the Earth
International Advertising Association
International Association of Classification Societies
International Association of Independent Tanker Owners
International Commission on Illumination
International Container Bureau
International Data Exchange Association
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
International Federation of Automatic Control
International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations
International Federation of Operational Research Societies
International Federation of Robotics
International Gas Union
International Institute for Environment and Development
International Iron and Steel Institute
International Motorcycle Manufacturers' Association
International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers
International Real Estate Federation
International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
International Union of Tenants
Transfrigoroute International
World Mining Congress

OTHERS

Airports Associations Co-ordinating Council
Central Dispatching Office of the Unified Power Systems
Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organizations in Europe of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Council of Bureaux (Motor Vehicle Insurance)
Euro-Mediterranean Seismological Centre
European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries
European Committee for Standardization
European Co-ordinating Council for the Development of Performance Tests for Lubricants and Engine Fuels
European Environmental Bureau
European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics
European Fertilizers Manufacturers' Association
European Secretariat of Manufacturers of Light Metal Packages
European Syndicate of Steel Drums
European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization
European Union of Coachbuilders
Hazardous Materials Advisory Council

OTHERS (cont.)

Intermetall
Interokeanmetal
International Article Numbering Association
International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior
International Colloquium on Gas Marketing
International Council for Bird Preservation
International Council for New Initiatives in East-West Co-operation
International Environmental Bureau
International European Construction Federation
International Federation of Building and Woodworkers
International Federation of Information Processing
International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
International Laboratory Accreditation Conference
International Maritime Satellite Organization
International Railway Transport Committee
International Real Property Union
International Rubber Study Group
International Society of Aeronautical Telecommunication
International Union of Combined Rail/Road Transport Enterprises
International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine
International Union of Private Railway Truck Owners' Association
International Union of Railways
International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures
International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau
Liaison Committee for the Manufacture of Automobile Equipment and Spare Parts
South East Asia Iron and Steel Institute
Stichting CONCAWE
World Conservation Monitoring Centre
World Federation of Industrial Workers
World Fire Statistics Centre
World Resources Institute

UNITED
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CONCENTRATION AND INTEGRATION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report addresses matters arising out of the implementation of decision A (1987-S), adopted by the Special Session of the Commission in November 1987, as well as other matters relevant to concentration and integration of the Commission's programme of work. Paragraph 7 of this decision calls for reporting on a number of points with reference to resources, programmes, sales publications, and meetings and documentation.

Resources

2. During the period covered by this report the secretariat has, as a result of recruitment and the vacancy management system, reduced its vacancy rate among Professional posts to 11.4% (i.e. 13 vacancies out of 114 posts). In addition 10 of the vacancies are filled on a temporary basis to ensure maximum use of resources pending the administrative procedures for regular recruitment. While some difficulties have been encountered in the timely preparation of documents, major disruptions have been avoided.

Programme aspects

3. The table in Annex 1 to this report lists programme elements which have been added to or deleted from the programme of work adopted by the Commission

at its forty-fourth session, or identified for implementation at a future date or for action only at certain longer intervals. It also shows those programme elements which have exceeded the duration initially prescribed.

4. The information contained in the table is based on programme elements at the 3-digit level, i.e. the degree of detail contained in the programme of work reviewed by the Commission.

Areas of duplication of work

5. The Principal Subsidiary Bodies, in reviewing their programmes of work since the forty-fourth session, have identified no areas of work which unnecessarily duplicate either the work of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies or that of other international organizations. They continue to attach considerable importance, however, to their close co-operation with other ECE bodies and with other international organizations. More detailed information on this co-operation is contained in document E/ECE/1202.

Meetings, documentation and sales of publications

6. In 1989 the ECE held a total of 754 half-days of meetings serviced by the United Nations (as compared with 737 in 1988), of which 95 were held outside Geneva and a further 20 were for meetings of ECOSOC bodies on the transport of dangerous goods. This represents an increase of 2% over 1988 and a reduction of 14% over 1985. In addition, 101 half-days of meetings were held outside Geneva with services provided by the host authorities.

7. The total number of physical pages of ECE documentation and publications reproduced in 1989 in the three ECE languages was 85,899 pages, compared with 84,365 pages in 1988 and 106,748 pages in 1985 (an increase of 2% and a reduction of 19.5% respectively). Gross sales of ECE publications again generated a revenue of over $500,000 in 1989, an increase of over 12% from 1985.

II. Inter-disciplinary activities

8. In its consideration of concentration and integration of the programme of work, the Commission has given particular attention to questions of an inter-disciplinary character. In this respect considerable efforts have been made in the past by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies to identify and arrange for increased co-operation on topics where joint activities would be most effective. Such topics include, for instance:

- the chemical industry and the environment;
- energy and environment;
- air pollution and forest damage;
- transport and the environment;
- sustainable development (see also document E/ECE/1211);
- international tourism with regard to environmental, agricultural and transport aspects;

- irrigation practices to protect water resources; and
- standardization.

9. This list is indicative and not exhaustive. New and emerging issues will become evident in the ECE region; others will assume increased importance as a result of changing realities in both east and west and of improved east-west relations. Many of these issues will be of an interdisciplinary nature.

ANNEX 1

Adjustments made by Subsidiary Bodies to the Programme of Work approved by the Commission at its forty-fourth Session

Programme elements added	Programme elements deleted	Elements placed in Part II of the programme of work 1/	Elements having exceeded duration originally prescribed
01(a) Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation			
01(a).1.1 Medium- and long-term assessment of engineering industries within national, regional and global economies 01(a).3.3 New materials and their application in engineering industries	01(a).3.1 Developments in robotics and flexible manufacturing systems and trends towards computer-integrated manufacturing	Recent trends in assembly automation Trends and prospects in the shipbuilding industry and the production of port and marine equipment	None
01(b) - Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy			
4.2 (v) A Symposium on Energy Efficiency Measures in Industry to be held in Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) in 1991, following preparatory meeting in 1989.	None	01(b).2.2 Exchange of views and information on NRSE reference to: - conventional and unconventional geothermal energy - utilization of biomass, including organic wastes - advanced photovoltaic and wind systems; - the future role of NRSE in energy scenarios	None

1/ Programme elements approved for implementation at a set future date or needing action only at certain longer intervals.

Programme elements added	Programme elements deleted	Elements placed in Part II of the programme of work 1/	Elements having exceeded duration originally prescribed
01(c) - Meeting of Governments Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies			
None	None	None	None
02 - Committee on Agricultural Problems			
None	None	None	None
03 - Chemical Industry Committee			
03.3.2 Engineering plastics 03.3.3 Possibilities and limitations of east-west joint ventures in the chemical industry 03.4.3. Recycling of plastics in ECE member countries	03.3.2 Membrane technology in the chemical industry	Membrane technology in the chemical industry	None
04 - Coal Committee			
None	None	None	None
05 - Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems			
05.1.4 Legal instrument on transboundary impacts of industrial accidents	05.4.4 Possible new areas of co-operation 05.2.3 Environmental impact assessment for sectoral activities	None	

Programme elements added	Programme elements deleted	Elements placed in Part II of the programme of work 1/	Elements having exceeded duration originally prescribed
05.4.1 Evaluation of energy and resource-saving technology in pulp and paper industry	05.4.1 Evaluation of cost-effectiveness of energy and resource-saving technologies		
05.4.3 Low-waste technology and environmentally sound products	05.4.3 Economic implications of low-waste technology		
05.4.4 Policies and strategies for integrated waste management			
05.5.6 Framework convention on the protection and use of transboundary water courses and international lakes			05.5.5 Responsibility and liability regarding transboundary water pollution
05.5.7 Prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides	05.5.3 Optimal water management of small catchments		
	05.5.4 Water and agriculture		
	05.6.1 Approaches, methods and techniques for monitoring flora, fauna and their habitats		
06 - Committee on Electric Power			
None	None	None	None

Programme elements added	Programme elements deleted	Elements placed in Part II of the programme of work 1/	Elements having exceeded duration originally prescribed
09 - Inland Transport Committee			
09.8.7 Publication of an annual bulletin on Transport in Europe	None	09.2.5. Special project, Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) 09.8.1.(bis) Development of internationally comparable and agreed standards including methods of collection and definitions, concerning inland transport and road traffic accident statistics	None
10 - Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology			
None	10.4.1 Selected issues in biotechnology 10.4.2 Possible new areas of co-operation	None	None
11 - Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments			
11.3.4 Sustainable economic development	None	None	None
12 - Conference of European Statisticians			
12.2.4 Use of registers in national statistical offices	None	12.3.5 Price and quantity statistics	None

Programme elements added	Programme elements deleted	Elements placed in Part II of the programme of work 1/	Elements having exceeded duration originally prescribed
07 - Committee on Gas a/			
07.2.5 Interconnection and extension of gas networks in Europe	None	None	None
08 - Committee on Housing, Building and Planning			
08.1.4 Planning for international tourism	08.2.2 Enery issues in urban and regional planning	None	08.1.2 Urban renewal and modernization policies
08.2.5 Effectiveness of settlement planning development (technopoles)	08.2.4 New techniques to collect and process land-use data		08.4.2 Energy conservation in buildings
08.2.6 Impact of technological change on urban and regional development (technopoles)			08.4.5 Building pathology and prevention of disorders
08.3.3 Socio-economic aspects of housing modernization policies			
08.3.4 Distributional aspects of housing and taxation policies			
08.4.6 Construction in seismic regions			

a/ In addition, the Committee merged programme elements 07.6.1 and 07.6.1.2 into a new programme element 07.6.1 entitled "Publication of the Annual Bulletin of Gas Statistics and other selected gas issues", and combined all environment-related programme elements into a new sub-programme, 07.7 "The Gas Industry and the Environment".

Programme elements added	Programme elements deleted	Elements placed in Part II of the programme of work 1/	Elements having exceeded duration originally prescribed
12.5.2 Development of an international environmental data service		12.4.2 Development and harmonization of statistical nomenclatures in the field of social and demographic statistics	
13 - Steel Committee			
13.3.2 Producers' and users' metallurgical requirements in the welding of steel products	13.3.1 Economic and technical aspects of the modernization of the steel industry	Economic and technological aspects of direct-reduction technology	None
13.4.2 Steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap	13.3.2 Importance of the iron and steel industry for the economic activity of ECE member countries	Compact mini-mills in the steel industry	
14 - Timber Committee			
None	None	None	None
15 - Committee on the Development of Trade			
None	None	None	None

ANNEX 2

1. The following is an illustration of interdisciplinary work carried out within ECE.

2. There is full recognition of the close interrelationship between economic development and the use of natural resources and changes in the environment. In addition to being an important source of amenities, natural resources constitute the basis upon which man draws for his economic activities and to satisfy his needs. Conversely, economic activities, while using natural resources, significantly alter the environment and/or interact with it in a variety of ways, with both positive and negative impacts.

3. Conscious of the importance of the issue the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems paid particular attention to innovative analytical techniques for estimating and comparing the costs and benefits of environmental policies, starting with ways to control pollution, with a view to: (a) achieving the greatest possible benefits from future investments in environmental quality; (b) defining the natural resource base for sustainable development; (c) assisting in achieving an optimal adjustment of economic activities to environmental concerns; (d) elaborating procedures for environmental-resource accounting and for embedding environmental considerations in macro-economic indicators, as well as (e) preparing recommendations to ECE Governments setting out methodologically unified principles to be used as a framework in this important field. To carry out this work the Senior Advisers established a task force with Norway as lead country. At their twenty-fifth session the Senior Economic Advisers decided to join this undertaking. The Joint Task Force met twice, in Oslo (Norway) in June and in Moscow (USSR) in November 1989. Both environmental specialists and macro-economic experts attended.

4. The report of the Joint Task Force on Environment and Economics (ENVWA/R.33;EC.AD/R.49)included an appraisal of problems in the domain of environment and economics. This assessment has served both to build a common understanding within the group and as a starting point for drawing up guidelines which could serve as a framework in this important field, particularly regarding integrating environmental and economic concerns; environmental and resource accounting; and combined environmental and economic projection.

5. An ad hoc meeting, held in January 1990, revised the report of the Joint Task Force and prepared a set of draft recommendations to ECE Governments (ENVWA/AC.5/2) for consideration by both the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Senior Economic Advisers.

6. These draft recommendations stipulate that the interface between the environment and economic development should be further explored; in particular, economic policies should respond better to the comprehensive impacts of human activities on the environment and on the resource base; environmental indicators and indicators of sustainability, as currently developed by several countries and international organizations, should supplement economic indicators in economic decision-making; efforts should be

made to achieve, wherever possible, international comparability and compatibility between environmental and economic data; environmental policies should be based on an appraisal of costs and benefits which would include a whole range of indirect effects which are spread across sectors, countries and generations; policies should aim at achieving environmental targets at minimum cost; more effort should be made to promote integrated, environmentally sound technologies and to induce structural changes in production and consumption aimed at reducing negative environmental impacts, as compared to further introduction of end-of-pipe technologies; economic instruments in the policy mix should be more used; the damage and abatement costs of environmental impacts, and the costs for preventing future damage, should be paid by the polluter and carried by the consumer; combined, consistent environmental and economic analyses and projections are highly recommended; simultaneous, comparable international projections should be developed to help in evaluating the cost-efficiency of environmental policies across countries and sectors, and serve as a reference in the design and implementation of national policies and international agreements.

7. The ad hoc meeting also stressed the importance of pursuing the joint work between the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Senior Economic Advisers in the field of Environment and Economics with special emphasis on principles and measures to enhance co-operation and harmonization in the use of economic and regulatory instruments in the framework of environmental policy; the trade effects of environmental policies; and principles and mechanisms to ensure greater cost effectiveness between countries in the drafting of new agreements and the revision of existing ones, taking into account differing marginal abatements costs. The ad hoc meeting further suggested that a joint task force would study these issues in depth, while also preparing the programme of a joint Seminar on Environment and Economics to be convened in early 1992.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENTS OF THE MADRID MEETING 1980 AND THE VIENNA MEETING 1986 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE) FOR THE FURTHER WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

(Commission resolution 1 (44))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1 (44).

2. The participating States at the CSCE Vienna Meeting 1986 reaffirmed the important role of the ECE in fostering regional economic co-operation and in contributing to the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and subsequent CSCE documents. They expressed their readiness to make further use of the existing framework, resources and experience of the ECE in areas which are of significance for the implementation of the recommendations of the CSCE.

3. The Chapter of the Concluding Document on Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment contains many elements which are being actively implemented within ECE. In other cases there is an indication that the current ECE work could be expanded, and in certain sectors there appears to be potential for new work which could be

taken up by ECE. It is expected that the Commission will review its programme of work in the light of these provisions and decide on appropriate action. To assist the Commission in this exercise, the secretariat has made a preliminary analysis of these provisions.

Trade and industrial co-operation

4. In the field of trade the participating States decided to continue their efforts to reduce or progressively eliminate obstacles of all kinds to trade and they expressed their support for the work done in this field in appropriate international fora. Programme element 15.2.1 deals with all kinds of obstacles to the development of trade. The ECE secretariat keeps up to date the Inventory of Obstacles to Trade on the basis of relevant information communicated by Governments. Member countries which have made notifications and those to which notifications are addressed are invited to take steps to ensure that, where appropriate, notifications are withdrawn or suitably modified or supplemented.

5. In the Concluding Document the participating States recognize the valuable role of the ECE in dealing with questions related to compensation transactions. The ECE secretariat has prepared a study on compensation trade, concentrating in the first stage on the problems encountered by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in this field. In 1989 the secretariat conducted a survey complementing the work already undertaken on the problems of SMEs in compensation trade. To this end it consulted small- and medium-sized firms and their business organizations in the ECE region on the problems encountered and the ways in which solutions can be found. A meeting of experts will be held in 1990 to consider both the study and the results of the survey.

6. At the Vienna Meeting attention was focused on the "publication and availability of comprehensive, comparable and timely economic and commercial information". The participating States agreed to "encourage co-operation between their statistical services and within the framework of the ECE in order, inter alia, to facilitate the identification of disparities in foreign trade statistics and to improve the international comparability of such statistics. Furthermore, they consider it useful to increase the publication and exchange of statistics on such topics as demography, public health, agriculture, the environment and energy". This coincides with the desire, expressed in the framework of the ECE by many delegations, to intensify the exchange of statistical information in different fields. The Committee on the Development of Trade has proposed to the Commission that a meeting of experts be convened jointly with it and the Conference of European Statisticians to discuss disparities of foreign trade statistics and the improvement of the international comparability of such statistics.

7. The growing importance of services in their mutual economic relations was noted by the participating States in the Vienna Concluding Document. A study on east-west trade in services, prepared in 1989 for the Committee on the Development of Trade, analysed recent developments and prospective trends in this sector. The secretariat will prepare in 1990 a note on the efforts required by ECE member countries to extend and improve the existing data base

on east-west service transactions. The Senior Economic Advisers have selected personal and collective services as one of the priority subjects in their programme of work.

8. Industrial co-operation, and in particular joint ventures, is an area of common interest. A Meeting of Experts on East-West Joint Ventures was held in Genoa (Italy) in March 1989. The secretariat published in 1989 that part of the Guide on legal aspects of new forms of industrial co-operation which deals with east-west joint ventures. It also commenced in 1989 the publication of an "East-West Joint Venture News". The secretariat will prepare in 1990 a study on the conditions for promoting foreign direct investment, including special economic zones, joint ventures and other forms of industrial co-operation in the ECE region. It endeavours to maintain an up-to-date data base on industrial co-operation contracts including joint ventures and will make suggestions for further activities in this field to be examined by the Committee on the Development of Trade in 1990.

9. Standardization is another practical area in the trade field where policies and practices and related activities for the facilitation of international trade were mentioned in the Vienna Concluding Document. The Tenth Meeting of Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies adopted a new version of the ECE recommendations on standardization policies. The eleventh meeting (1990) is expected to adopt a new recommendation on certification intended to facilitate mutual recognition of certification arrangements as envisaged in the Vienna Concluding Document, in which the participating States agreed to "promote co-operation among relevant national bodies and within international organizations including the ECE". The trade facilitation activities of the ECE, of which the EDIFACT project is the most recent and concrete example, have general support and encouragement from the Governments of the CSCE participating States.

Engineering industries and automation

10. The participating States expressed their intention of exchanging appropriate information in specific fields of engineering industries and automation and to this end, inter alia, to develop statistics in fields of engineering industries of commercial importance. In 1989 the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation agreed to form a Task Force consisting of statistical experts from east and west as well as the CMEA and OECD secretariats. The Task Force met in June 1989 to revise the questionnaire on engineering industries and automation with the pertinent correspondence keys used for the collection of annual statistics. A Meeting on Questions of Statistics was convened jointly with the Conference of European Statisticians in October 1989.

Chemical industry

11. The participating States expressed their interest in improving the legal, administrative and financial conditions for investment in, and operation of, joint ventures and in promoting the exchange of all information relevant to the establishment of joint ventures. The Chemical Industry Committee has convened a Seminar on Possibilities and Limitations of East-West Joint Ventures in the Chemical Industry to be held in Poland in November 1990.

Science and technology

12. The Vienna Concluding Document referred to the fact that the participating States considered it desirable to enhance the exchange of information on laws and regulations relating to the safety aspects of genetic engineering and to facilitate consultation and exchange of information on safety guidelines. In 1988 the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology decided to assume the responsibility for the inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology and any planned measures in order to identify developments and national experience gained in this field. In 1989 they requested the secretariat:

> "(c) (i) to issue the summaries of national submissions on safety guidelines as individual monographs ...
>
> (ii) to act as a depository for national reports, regulations and legislation concerning safety guidelines;
>
> (iii) to liaise closely with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and
>
> (d) To review progress in the establishment of the inventory of safety guidelines in biotechnology at SAST-18 ... ."

Agriculture

13. The Committee on Agricultural Problems will certainly note that the participating States decided to consider "the possibility of encouraging the development and use of alternatives to animal experimentation, including for product testing, on animals".

Environment

14. The pioneering role of ECE in different fields of environmental protection is widely known and appreciated, also outside the ECE region. This appreciation is clearly expressed in the Concluding Document where there are specific references to the 1979 ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the subsequent Protocols 1/. The participating States noted the need to take further steps to reduce sulphur emissions and emissions of other air pollutants such as hydrocarbons and those producing photochemical oxidants.

15. In November 1989 the Executive Body for the Convention amended the terms of reference of the Working Group on Abatement Strategies to include "appropriate proposals and a time table for revision of existing, or

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1/ The 1985 Helsinki Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30% has been ratified by 20 Parties to date. The 1988 Sofia Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes has been signed by 27 Parties to date and ratified by 10 Parties.

preparation of new, international agreements for further reduction of sulphur emissions after 1993, on the basis of critical loads and other considerations" (ECE/EB.AIR/20, para. 20).

16. The Working Group on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) met in January/February 1990 and began discussion of a draft protocol. Draft technical annexes for a protocol will be considered by a Task Force on Emissions of VOCs from Stationary Sources, meeting in parallel with a consultation of governmentally designated experts on VOC emissions from mobile sources in Interlaken (Switzerland) in April 1990.

17. In this connection it may be noted that a joint ECE/UNDP project on technologies for air pollution control from stationary sources is under way.

18. The Executive Body approved the amended fifth-phase programme of EMEP (1990-1992), together with the work plan and an increased budget for 1991 (ECE/EB.AIR/20, para. 31). All parties to the Convention except Iceland have become Parties to the 1984 Protocol on the Long-term Financing of EMEP.

19. The Vienna Meeting underlined the importance of the long-term Regional Strategy for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources which was adopted by the Commission at its forty-third session.

20. Some of the activities and problems which are emphasized in the Vienna Concluding Document are relatively new, and the ECE and its subsidiary bodies will have to decide how best to deal with them. While the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) has been thoroughly discussed and reported on in the ECE, the concept of sustainable development, and the global problem of climate change, including the global warming phenomenon, referred to in the Concluding Document, demand further attention.

21. The Committee on Electric Power has projects on compilation of information on research and planning activities relevant to the greenhouse issue (06.5.5.1) and the estimated effect of climate change on demand forecasts (06.5.5.2), and has set up a task force. The Coal Committee included an inquiry on "Coal industry or government-sponsored studies of direct relevance to the coal combustion-CO_2 issue" (04.1.1). The study of the Senior Advisers on Energy on "Interrelationship between environmental and energy policies" (ENERGY/AC.10/R.2) appraises climate change as one of the main factors requiring an adaptation of present energy policies. The Committee on Gas considered the role of gas in climate variation (GAS/R.177 and R.182).

22. In recognition of the importance of environmentally sound technology, including low- and non-waste technology, and in particular of improved international co-operation for pollution prevention at source and efficient pollution control, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems convened a Seminar on Economic Implications of Low-waste Technology in October 1989. The Seminar prepared recommendations to Governments focusing on legal, administrative and economic instruments to promote the development and application of low-waste technology. It provided also a forum for exchange of information on, and experience with, the implementation of relevant provisions of the ECE Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Recycling and Re-utilization of Wastes.

23. Work has been finalized on two complementary studies: one analyses policies and strategies to promote reduction, replacement, recovery, recycling and re-utilization of industrial materials, residues and wastes as well as related management practices and techniques; in the other study an assessment was made of the performance characteristics of energy- and resource-saving technologies and an appraisal of their cost-effectiveness in comparison with conventional techniques. A Task Force on exchange of technology has been established under the Executive Body for the Convention which has considered east-west exchange of technology, and at its next meeting will focus on financial issues.

24. With respect to the pressing problem of hazardous wastes, the ECE secretariat services the bodies responsible for the elaboration of international rules and regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods and contributes to the work on a global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are facing the challenge of broadening the concept of waste management to achieve a comprehensive, integrated, cradle-to-grave approach and to elaborate a regional strategy for integrated waste management as proposed by the Working Party on Low- and Non-Waste Technology (ENVWA/WP.2/3, para. 26). The Vienna Concluding Document states that the participating States also attach great importance to these problems.

25. The Code of Conduct on accidental pollution of transboundary inland waters has been finalized, and is intended to guide Governments in the protection of transboundary inland waters against pollution resulting from accidents or natural disasters. Its objective is to increase the state of preparedness and the ability to respond efficiently to such incidents, to mitigate and counter the damage resulting therefrom, to provide a common basis for, and establish standards of conduct relating to hazardous activities that might affect transboundary inland waters. The Code is also aimed at reinforcing international co-operation for preventing and combating accidental pollution of transboundary inland waters during the pre-accident and post-accident stages, by means of various management practices, with particular regard to effective early-warning and alarm systems, information exchange, compatibility of monitoring systems and joint or co-ordinated contingency planning. A task force is elaborating a concept of responsibility and liability regarding transboundary water pollution including accidental pollution episodes.

26. The decision of the participating States to combat soil degradation and to protect flora, fauna and their habitats, on the basis of the Declaration on this subject adopted by the ECE, will mean a strengthening of the ECE work on this subject. Pursuant to the ECE Declaration on the Conservation of Flora, Fauna and their Habitats, a draft European Red List has been elaborated by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems taking into account relevant work of other international organizations. The objective is to facilitate and promote the conservation of the common European heritage of wildlife. The European Red List identifies mammal, bird, fish, invertebrate and vascular plant species which are globally threatened and found in Europe and shows their distribution in individual ECE member countries as well as species threatened at global level. An ad hoc meeting to finalize the Red List will be held in the autumn of 1990.

Co-operation in other areas

27. In paragraph 38 of the Concluding Document the participating States recognize the important role of transport in economic and social development. They explicitly welcome the work done by ECE in this respect.

28. While agreeing that the elaboration of measures to increase efficiency in the field of transport should be encouraged, the need to take into account the consequences of such measures for the environment affecting, in particular, human health, safety and the quality of life in general is recognized.

29. Particular attention is drawn to questions of multimodal transport networks, combined transport, transit flows and the simplification of transport documents. Since ECE is already active in these areas, as well as in transport safety, vehicle noise and pollution control, the provisions of the Concluding Document can be seen as a confirmation of Governments' interest in these areas and support for ECE's work.

30. Among other areas of co-operation identified in the Concluding Document, and on which ECE has work under way, the economic importance of tourism, the problem of migrant workers and their families and the field of vocational training, particularly that of young people to facilitate their integration into professional life, should be mentioned.

31. A Symposium on Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development will be held in Luxembourg in autumn 1991 under the auspices of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Inland Transport Committee have been invited to co-operate in this work. The project will be implemented in close co-operation with the secretariat of the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

32. The UNFPA-funded project "Population and development in southern Europe with special attention to migration" is now in its final stage. In the context of this project labour migration and its social and economic consequences are studied, both for those countries which are sources of migration (mostly south European countries) and those which attracted labour flows (mostly the economically developed western and north European countries). The final meeting of the project, held in May 1989, recommended that the ECE prepare a publication which would summarize and highlight some of the key project results.

33. As a follow-up to the Madrid Concluding Document, the ECE convened, in co-operation with ILO, a Symposium on Management Training Programmes and Methods, Implications of New Technologies. The recommendations of this Symposium referred to the desirability of organizing workshops on selected management issues. In the light of the outcome of the Vienna Meeting, and the ECE/ILO Symposium, Governments may wish to consider how ECE might make a further contribution in the field of vocational training in the area of management of joint ventures.

34. In Vienna agreement was reached to hold a number of follow-up meetings in different fields, and for the first time two meetings will be devoted to problems in the so-called "Second basket". For the Conference on Economic

Co-operation in Europe held in Bonn (Federal Republic of Germany) from 19 March to 11 April 1990, the ECE prepared two contributions: a paper on ECE activities relevant to the Bonn Conference and a brochure entitled "ECE and the Business Community: an Extensive and Mutually Profitable Co-operation".

35. The Meeting on the Protection of the Environment took place in Sofia (Bulgaria) from 16 October to 3 November 1989. At the invitation of the participating States, the Executive Secretary of ECE attended the Meeting and contributed a report containing recommendations for concrete action in each priority area, i.e. industrial accidents with transboundary impacts; potentially hazardous chemicals; and transboundary water pollution. A clear understanding was reached at the Meeting that action should be taken by the ECE as soon as possible to elaborate a legal instrument for the prevention and control of the transboundary effects of industrial accidents, as well as the elaboration of a framework convention on the use and protection of transboundary water courses and international lakes.

36. The outcome of the Sofia meeting was considered by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in February/March 1990. The delegation of Bulgaria informed the Senior Advisers about the discussions held and the general understanding reached at the Sofia Meeting. Particular reference was made to a proposal co-sponsored by 34 participating States containing, inter alia, recommendations for specific follow-up activities to be undertaken within the ECE. The delegation of Romania informed the Senior Advisers that its Government had recently announced its full agreement with that proposal. That decision was unanimously welcomed by the Senior Advisers.

37. As a result of the discussion on the outcome of the Sofia Meeting, the Senior Advisers entrusted the Working Party on Water Problems with the elaboration of a framework convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes. The Senior Advisers also decided to undertake the elaboration of a legal instrument on transboundary impacts of industrial accidents and set up an ad hoc Working Group which will meet in June 1990. Finally, the Senior Advisers requested the secretariat to prepare a note on possible action in the field of management of hazardous chemicals for consideration at their fourth session. The secretariat should in particular investigate what possibilities exist for drawing on the experience of achievements of OECD for the benefit of the entire ECE region.

38. The Commission was also invited, together with other competent international organizations such as UNESCO, UNEP and WHO, to participate in another follow-up meeting in connection with the chapter of the Concluding Document which deals with questions relating to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. This meeting will be held in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) from 24 September to 19 October 1990 to consider ways of further enhancing various aspects of co-operation, including the protection and improvement of Mediterranean ecosystems.

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Forty-fifth session
(Provisional Agenda item 4)

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENTS OF THE MADRID MEETING 1980 AND THE VIENNA MEETING 1986 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE) FOR THE FURTHER WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

(Commission resolution 1 (44))

Report by the Executive Secretary

ADDENDUM

1. This document is issued as an addendum to the report of the Executive Secretary contained in document E/ECE/1204.

2. In accordance with the provisions of the Concluding Document of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe was held in Bonn (Federal Republic of Germany) from 19 March to 11 April 1990. Pursuant to operative para. 4 of Commission resolution 1 (44), the Executive Secretary attended the Conference and contributed to its preparation.

3. The Conference was opened and closed by the Minister of Economics of the Federal Republic of Germany. Contributions were made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Members of the business community gave the Conference the benefit of their practical experience, thus contributing to its success.

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4. Copies of the secretariat's submission on ECE activities relevant to the Conference and a brochure entitled "ECE and the Business Community; an Extensive and Mutually Profitable Co-operation", as well as the two statements made by the Executive Secretary to the Conference will be made available to delegations.

5. At its closing session on 11 April 1990, the Conference adopted by consensus a document, copies of which are available to delegations. The document contains a number of references to the work of the Economic Commission for Europe. Participating States welcomed a further development of the work of relevant organizations, notably the ECE, regarding statistics; the importance of the ECE and UNEP were recognized for the promotion of co-operation in the field of the environment; international economic institutions were called on to discuss the specificities and longer-term issues of economic changes and reforms in the participating States and related problems of co-operation among them and to share experiences. To this end, ECE was invited, in view of its annual session, to develop practical measures in priority areas.